

Public Hearing of the Town Council held Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in Town Council Chambers, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.

PRESENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson. Councilor Edward J. Blanchard arrived at 7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Arthur R. Hurley, Chairman, Burrillville Budget Board

Relative to discussing the Municipal Budget

NOTE: The public hearing was duly advertised in the local section of the Woonsocket Call on May 10, May 12 and May 14, 2014.

1. Comments from the Budget Board

Arthur R. Hurley, Chairman of the Burrillville Budget Board, thanked Finance Department personnel for their support throughout the budget season. Mr. Hurley commented on well thought-out department budgets and items that are difficult to control. A copy of Mr. Hurley's comments is on file with the record of the public hearing.

2. Comments from Michael C. Wood, Town Manager

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, thanked the Budget Board for their work in developing the budget. Mr. Wood summarized his recommendation, noting that a 72 cent increase in the tax rate would be necessary to fund the proposed budget. Mr. Wood said that the increase would be less than the four percent cap allowed by law. Mr. Wood indicated that he would adjust the budget based upon input during the public hearings. A copy of Mr. Wood's recommended budget and budget transmittal memorandum are on file with the record of the public hearing.

Town Councilors asked Mr. Wood and Finance Director John P. Mainville about pension reform, the Board of Canvassers budget, the impact of a change in the motor vehicle exemption, changes in revenues, and the Parks & Recreation and Rubbish & Recycling budgets. These matters were discussed.

3. Public Comment:

Sandra P. Mundy, Director, Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library commented on the budget recommended for the library, requesting that the Town Council increase the amount recommended by the Manager.

Note: Councilor Edward J. Blanchard arrived at this point in the hearing.

Margaret L. Dudley of Mill Pond Road, Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library Board Member, suggested that the library's increased cost for benefits exceeded the increase in the library budget proposed by the Manager.

Dennis Anderson, Whipple Road, commented on the proposed tax rate increase and opposed decreasing the motor vehicle exemption in favor of lowering the tax rate.

Michael Puyana, Old Hillside Drive, acknowledged the work done to prepare the budget, commented on the financial difficulties many residents are experiencing, discussed the state's role in budgetary issues and recommended appealing to our state representatives and senators.

4. VOTED to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. Seconded by Councilor Edward J. Blanchard. The vote was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson.

5. Town Council deliberation

Councilor Edward J. Blanchard acknowledged the Budget Board and Finance Department. Councilor Blanchard said that the Manager's recommendation is a good starting point.

Councilor Stephen N. Rawson noted that budget decisions are difficult since the state budget has not been completed. Councilor Rawson discussed the stability of the tax rate in recent years, acknowledging that it would be difficult to avoid a tax increase for FY2015.

6. VOTED to adjourn at 7:48 P.M.

Motion by Councilor David J. Place. Seconded by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. The vote was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson.

The meeting was recorded.

Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk